NEW JERCEY CEMETERY BOARD

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
NEW JERSEY CEMETERY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

Administrative Action

PRINCETON MEMORIAL PARK

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

Certificate of Authority Number 134

Number 134

This matter was opened to the New Jersey Cemetery Board upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Princeton Memorial Park (hereinafter "Respondent" or "PMP") has held Certificate of Authority Number 134 issued by the Cemetery Board effective August 23, 1972 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 8A:3-2, now known as N.J.S.A. 45:27-6 and has been a New Jersey Cemetery Company at all times relevant to this matter.
- 2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 27-12, each cemetery company must establish a special, irrevocable trust fund for the maintenance and preservation of the cemetery. The income from the fund is to be applied to the maintenance and preservation of the cemetery in accordance with the definitions found at N.J.S.A. 45:27-2.

- 3. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:27-13 each cemetery company must make certain deposits into the cemetery's Maintenance and Preservation Fund on a monthly basis based on income generated by sales of lots, graves, crypts or niches and deposits based on resales or transfers of lots or graves (if other than transfers between heirs or next of kin), number of interments, and for each foundation base or installation.
- 4. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:27-15, each cemetery company that is not a municipality must file an annual report with the Board showing the extent and augmentation of the Maintenance and Preservation Fund not later than 120 days after the close of its fiscal year.
- 5. A review of the Board's files demonstrates that the last annual report from Respondent was filed on April 30, 2008 which indicated that Respondent's Maintenance and Preservation Fund was being held at Sovereign Bank. (See Certification of Dianne Tamaroglio ("Tamaroglio cert.") ¶5 and related exhibits attached to the Provisional Order of Discipline and made a part hereof.)
- 6. The Board reviewed the monthly statements from Sovereign Bank for January through April 2008 and determined that no deposits were made into the Maintenance and Preservation Fund Account during that period. (See Tamaroglio cert. ¶8.)
- 7. On July 8, 2008, the Board received a letter from Sovereign Bank notifying the Board that on June 13, 2008, it received a check in the amount of \$7,787.22 for deposit into the PMP Maintenance and Preservation Fund representing payment for the months of January, February and March and on June 19, 2008 a check in the amount of \$3,358.87 representing payment for the month of April. (See Tamaroglio cert. ¶9.)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:27-13d and N.J.A.C. 13:44J-5.3(c), a cemetery company is required to make the appropriate deposits to it Maintenance and Preservation Fund by the last day of the

month following the month in which the monies were received. Respondent failed to make timely deposits to its Maintenance and Preservation Fund for January, February, March and April, 2008.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was issued on October 7, 2008, and a copy was served on Respondent. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal, setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

By letter dated October 22, 2008, Respondent agreed with the Board's Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law, but argued that the financial circumstances of the cemetery company were such that it was unable to pay the proposed civil monetary penalty for the violations it acknowledged to have occurred. Respondent suggested that the violations found by the Board incur a late fee, rather than a civil monetary penalty, due to the cemetery's "having to make a choice between surviving or being late on a payment [into the Maintenance and Preservation Fund]."

Respondent's submissions were reviewed by the Board, and the Board determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited further consideration, as Respondent did not dispute the Findings of Fact or Conclusion of Law. The Board has determined that it is therefore not in dispute that Respondent's payments into the Maintenance and Preservation Trust Fund for Princeton Memorial Park were not timely for January through April 2008, as required by both statute and regulation.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 21 day of November, 2008,

ORDERED that:

1. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22 in the total

amount of \$2,500.00 for its violations of N.J.S.A. 45:27-13(d) and N.J.A.C. 13:44J-5.3(c), except

that payment of \$1,500.00 of the total amount shall be suspended and will be dismissed, provided

that Respondent's required payments into its Maintenance and Preservation Trust Fund are timely

made for each of the twelve (12) months immediately following the date of this Order. Payment of

the remaining \$1,000.00 shall be by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New

Jersey, and shall be sent to: Dianne Tamaroglio, Executive Director, New Jersey Cemetery Board

at 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07101, no later than ten (10) days from the

receipt of this Order.

2. The suspended penalty shall become immediately due and payable in full upon a showing

that Respondent has failed to make timely payment into its Maintenance and Preservation Trust Fund

for any of the twelve (12) months immediately following the date of this Order. Nothing herein shall

be deemed to waive any right of the Board or the Attorney General to take any civil or administrative

action deemed appropriate with respect to any additional violations by Respondent after the date of

this Order, and any such subsequent violations will subject Respondent to enhanced penalties

pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

NEW JERSEY STATE CEMETERY BOARD

Bv:

William Nichols, Chairman

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